

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended, claims 2-5 and 14-17 remain unchanged, and claims 6, 8-12, and 18 have been canceled. Also enclosed with this paper is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is respectfully requested.

During a historical project review, the applicant discovered that the subject matter of claims 1-5, and 8-17 was offered for sale by the applicant and used commercially more than one year before the earliest priority date of this application. Therefore, the claims have been amended to include subject matter that the applicant presently believes to be patentable based on the information learned during the above-referenced review, *i.e.*, the scope of claims 6, 7, 18, and 19. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6 and claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18.

The IDS accompanying this paper includes references showing the structure and methods now known to be practiced more than one year before the earliest priority date of this application.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or any

underpayments which may be required for the above-referenced application to Deposit
Account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

/W. Thad Adams, III/

W. Thad Adams, III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,037

W. Thad Adams, III
ADAMS EVANS P.A.
Suite 2350 Charlotte Plaza
201 South College Street
Charlotte, NC 28244
Tel: (704) 375-9249
Fax: (704) 375-0729
Email: wta@adamspat.com
File No.: 2974/2US